

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 19-21 and 29-34 without prejudice or disclaimer.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of managing a multimedia file managing said multimedia file with index information, multimedia data of said multimedia file being able to be managed in each prescribed management unit, including the steps of:

generating said index information including a source identifier expressing a source having one or more of said management units associated with said multimedia file as a title frame, positions of a leading frame and tail frame of said title frame in said source, and a position of a reference frame for decoding said leading frame; and recording said index information onto a recording medium, attaching said index information to said multimedia file.

17. (Previously Presented) The managing method for a multimedia file according to claim 16, wherein said step of generating index information includes a step of generating a plurality of pieces of index information and said recording step includes a step of recording said plurality of pieces of index information and information for specifying the number of said pieces of index information onto a recording medium, attaching said plurality of pieces of index information and said information for specifying the number of said pieces of index information to said multimedia file.

18. (Previously Presented) The managing method for a multimedia file according to claim 16, further including the steps of:

causing a user to specify one or more of management units associated with said multimedia file as a title frame; and

generating second index information in which a bit stream obtained by encoding a specified title frame is embedded,

wherein said recording step including a step of recording said index information and said second index information onto a recording medium together with flags indicating kinds of said index information and said second index information, respectively, attaching said index information and said second index information to said multimedia file together with said flags indicating kinds of said index information and said second index information.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) A managing apparatus for a multimedia file managing said multimedia file with index information, multimedia data of said multimedia file being able to be managed in each prescribed management unit, including:

an index information generating section generating index information including a source identifier expressing a source having one or more of said management units associated with said multimedia file as a title frame, positions of a leading frame and tail frame of said title frame in said source and a position of a reference frame for decoding said leading frame; and

an index information attaching section recording said index information onto a recording medium, attaching said index information to said multimedia file.

23. (Previously Presented) The managing apparatus for a multimedia file according to claim 22, wherein said multimedia file is an image file.

24. (Previously Presented) The managing apparatus for a multimedia file according to claim 23, wherein said prescribed management unit is a frame of an image.

25. (Previously Presented) The managing apparatus for a multimedia file according to claim 22, wherein said index information generating section generates a plurality of pieces of index information and

 said index information attaching section records said plurality of pieces of index information and information for specifying the number of said pieces of index information onto a recording medium, attaching said plurality of pieces of index information pieces and said information for specifying the number of said index information pieces to said multimedia file.

26. (Previously Presented) The managing apparatus for a multimedia file according to claim 22, wherein said index information generating section generates said index information including said source identifier specifying a title frame having one or more of said management units in said multimedia file, positions of a leading frame and tail frame of said title frame and a position of a reference frame for decoding said leading frame.

27. (Previously Presented) The managing apparatus for a multimedia file according to claim 22, wherein said index information generating section generates said index information including said source identifier specifying a title frame having one or more of said management units in a second multimedia file different from said multimedia file, positions of a leading frame and tail frame of said title frame and a position of a reference frame for decoding said leading frame.

28. (Previously Presented) The managing apparatus for a multimedia file according to claim 22, further including: an index information specifying section causing a user to specify one or more of said management units associated with said multimedia file as a title frame,

wherein

 said index information generating section generating second index information in which a bit stream obtained by encoding a specified title frame is embedded and
 said index information recording section recording said index information and